

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: SOCI, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ITEM 4

REF: GENEVA 951

1. COMMISSION CONCLUDED ACTION ON DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (ITEM 4(A)) WITH ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS ON MOTION OF CHAIRMAN OF REVISED DRAFT PROGRAM (E/ CN.4/ L1228 AS AMENDED) AND ROLE OF NGO' S IN COMBATTING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (E/ CN.4/ L1229).
2. ELEVEN DELEGATIONS, UNDER LEADERSHIP OF PAKISTAN, INTRODUCED A REVISED DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE (E/ CN.4/ L1228) WHICH MADE A NUMBER OF ESSENTIALLY STYLISTIC CHANGES IN THE DRAFT SUBMITTED BY THE SUB- COMMISSION CONTAINED IN E/ CN.4/1101. ONLY CHANGES OF SUBSTANCE WERE: (1) ADDITION OF PARAGRAPH SUPPORTING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS STRUGGLING AGAINST COLONIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND (2) A REVISED SECTION ON COORDINATION WHICH CALLS FOR CREATION OF A GA COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE PROGRAMS AND EVALUATE ACTIVIGIES DURING THE DECADE AND SERVE AS A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE MID- DECADE CONFERENCE.
3. THE PARAGRAPH ON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS AMENDED BY THE US AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHERS AND READ AS FOLLOWS IN THE FINAL VERSION: " IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN CHARTER, RELEVANT UN DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS STRUGGLING AGAINST COLONIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AS WELL AS TO GOVERNMENTS WHO WISH TO EMBARK ON CONCRETE PROGRAMMES TO ERADICATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION."

4. THERE AS CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY OVER THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WITH STRONG RESERVATIONS MADE BY THE US, UK, USSR, BRSSR, BULGARIA, FRANCE, ECUADOR AND MEXICO. THESE DELEGATIONS OPPOSED CREATION OF A NEW BODY AND FELT THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY ECOSOC AND WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES. THE SECRETARIAT ESTIMATED ANNUAL ADDITIONAL EXPENSES OF \$120,000 PLUS AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT FOR PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE.

5. THE USSR, UK, AND BULGARIA EXPRESSED DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS NOTED, AND THE CO- SPONSORS AGREED, THAT THE QUESTION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL FUND MUST BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BY THE GA.

6. DESPITE THE RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED TO THE DRAFT, IT WAS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION WITHOUT OBJECTION WITH STATEMENTS OF RESERVATION BY DELEGATIONS. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL MEMBERS THAT ECOSOC AND THE GA WOULD REVIEW THE PROGRAM, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO COORDINATING MACHINERY, THEREBY PERMITTING ACCEPTANCE OF THIS DRAFT WITHOUT A VOTE.

7. THE US STATEMENT OF RESERVATIONS CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE WOULD DUPLICATE OTHER UN MEETINGS AND DELIBERATIONS ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND HOPE THAT IT WOULD ADD TO THESE DELIBERATIONS BY MAKING A UNIQUE, POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO OVERCOMING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION;
- B. THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY BY THE GA IN LIGHT OF OTHER FUNDS ALREADY ESTABLISHED;
- C. NON- ACCEPTANCE OF REFERENCE TO " THE CRIME OF APARTHEID" WHICH WE DO NOT ACCEPT ON LEGAL GROUNDS AND OUR VIEW THAT EXISTING CONVENTIONS ARE SUFFICIENT TO DEAL WITH APARTHEID;
- D. PROPOSED SPECIAL COMMITTEE WOULD DUPLICATE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER UN BODIES AND SHOULD BE CLOSELY SCRUTINEZED BY ECOSOC AND THE GA IN LINE WITH OVER- ALL EFFORTS TO RATIONALIZE AND CONSOLIDATE EXISTING BODIES;

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E. THE US UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DECADE WILL BE DEVOTED TO RACIAL

DISCRIMINATION IN ALL FORMS AND MINIFESTATIONS AS DEFINED IN THE CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

8. SEVERAL SESSIONS HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CONVENTION OF SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF APARTHEID (ITEM 4(B). A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. THE CHAIRMAN CONSTITUTED A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THE CONVENTION AND AMENDMENTS AND SUB-

MIT PROVISIONS IT CAN AGREE ON TO THE COMMISSION. MEMBERS ARE SENEGAL (CHAIRMAN), ZAIRE, EGYPT, CHILE, ECUADOR, INDIA, PHILIPPINES, USSR, BULGARIA AND NETHERLANDS. AUSTRIA IS PARTICIPATING AS AN OBSERVER. THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE CONSIDERED DURING A MAXIMUM OF FOUR SESSIONS.

9. THE COMMISSION HAS NOW MOVED ON TO THE NEXT ITEM ON EXPLOITATION OF LABOR THROUGH ILLICIT AND CLANDESTINE TRAFFICKING (ITEM 5 OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA).

10. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN FACED WITH DETERMINED SERIES OF MOVES BY USSR TO PUSH THROUGH TO FINAL APPROVAL ITS DRAFT APARTHEID CONVENTION. DRAFT CONVENTION HAS CLEAR SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY OF COMMISSION MEMBERS. SINCE COMMISSION ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE, USDEL HAS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED MOVES TO AVOID TIME CONSUMING ARTICLE- BY- ARTICLE DEBATE IN COMMISSION BY ESTABLISHMENT WORKING GROUP. WITH FAIRLY FIRM COOPERATION OF CHAIRMAN, WHO HAS BEEN HEAVILY PRESSURED BY USSR, PROSPECTS FOR ENOUGH TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS OF LESS POLITICAL NATURE ON AGENDA APPEAR GOOD. RIMESTAD

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